

NEW SECTION

WAC 296-62-095 Heat-related illness in the outdoor environment.

NEW SECTION

WAC 296-62-09510 Scope and purpose. (1) WAC 296-62-095 through 296-62-09570 applies to all employers with one or more employees performing work in an outdoor environment. It requires employers to implement workplace practices designed to reduce or eliminate the risks of heat-related illness resulting from outdoor exposure to temperature, humidity, and other environmental factors, or any combination thereof.

(2) WAC 296-62-095 through 296-62-09570 does not apply to incidental outdoor exposure.

NEW SECTION

WAC 296-62-09520 Definitions. (1) **Acclimatization** means the body's temporary adaptation to work in the heat that occurs gradually as a person is exposed to it.

(2) **Drinking water** means water satisfying the department of health's requirements as potable water suitable for drinking by the public. Water packaged as a consumer product is an acceptable source of drinking water.

(3) **Environmental factors for heat-related illness** means working conditions that increase the susceptibility for heat-related illness including air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat from the sun and other sources, conductive heat sources such as the ground, air movement, workload severity and duration, and personal protective equipment worn by employees.

(4) **Heat-related illness** means a medical condition resulting from the body's inability to cope with a particular heat load, and includes, but is not limited to, heat cramps, heat rash, heat exhaustion, fainting, and heat stroke.

(5) **Heat-related illness hazard** means exposure to environmental factors for heat-related illness.

(6) **Incidental outdoor exposure** means limited nonstrenuous

outdoor exposure such as an employee that works in an air-conditioned building who may be outdoors to travel from one building to another or a forklift operator regularly working in a warehouse who occasionally drives a load outside the warehouse.

(7) **Outdoor environment** means an environment where work activities are conducted outside of a building shell (generally referring to a ceiling and at least three sides). Environments such as vehicle cabs, sheds, and tents or other nonpermanent structures may be considered an outdoor environment when the environmental factors are not controlled.

(8) **Personal factors for heat-related illness** means factors including, but not limited to, an individual's age, degree of acclimatization, medical conditions, water consumption, alcohol consumption, caffeine consumption, nicotine use, and use of prescription and nonprescription medications that affect the body's water retention or other physiological responses to heat.

NEW SECTION

WAC 296-62-09530 Employer responsibility. The employer must establish, implement, and maintain effective written procedures to prevent the occurrence of heat-related illness which include, but are not limited to, the following elements:

(1) Identification and evaluation of temperature, humidity, and other environmental factors associated with heat-related illness;

(2) Provisions to prevent, control, and correct hazards associated with the occurrence of heat-related illness including, but not limited to:

- The provision of rest breaks that are adjusted for environmental factors;

- Encouraging frequent consumption of water, as described in WAC 296-62-09560 (2)(e) Information and training; and

(3) Procedures for responding to signs or symptoms of possible heat-related illness and accessing medical aid.

NEW SECTION

WAC 296-62-09540 Drinking water. When heat-related illness hazards are present, drinking water must be provided and made readily accessible in sufficient quantity to provide at least one quart per employee per hour.

NEW SECTION

WAC 296-62-09550 Responding to signs and symptoms of heat-related illness. (1) Employees showing signs or demonstrating symptoms of heat-related illness must be relieved from duty and provided with a sufficient means to reduce body temperature. Examples include, but are not limited to, the provision of shaded rest areas, misting stations, or temperature controlled environments (for example, air conditioned trailers).

(2) Employees showing signs or demonstrating symptoms of heat-related illness must be carefully evaluated to determine whether it is appropriate to return to work or if medical attention is necessary.

NEW SECTION

WAC 296-62-09560 Information and training. (1) All training must be provided prior to outdoor work assignments presenting heat-related illness hazards, and at least annually thereafter.

(2) Employee training. Training in the following topics must be provided to all employees who may be exposed to a heat-related illness hazard.

(a) The environmental factors that contribute to the risk of heat-related illness;

(b) Awareness of personal factors that may increase susceptibility to heat illness;

(c) The employer's procedures for identifying, evaluating, and controlling exposure;

(d) The importance of removing personal protective equipment during all breaks;

(e) The importance of frequent consumption of small quantities of water. One quart or more over the course of an hour may be necessary when the work environment is hot and employees may be sweating more than usual in the performance of their duties;

(f) The importance of acclimatization;

(g) The different types of heat-related illness and the common signs and symptoms of heat-related illness;

(h) The importance of immediately reporting to the employer, directly or through the employee's supervisor, symptoms or signs of heat illness in themselves, or in co-workers;

(i) The employer's procedures for responding to symptoms of possible heat-related illness, including how emergency medical services will be provided should they become necessary; and

(j) The purpose and requirements of this standard.

(3) Supervisor training. Prior to assignment, supervisors must have training on the following topics:

(a) The information required to be provided in subsection (2) of this section;

(b) The procedures the supervisor is to follow to implement the applicable provisions in this section;

(c) The procedures the supervisor is to follow when an employee exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with possible heat-related illness, including emergency response procedures;

(d) Procedures for moving employees to a place where they can be reached by an emergency medical service provider, if necessary; and

(e) How to provide clear and precise directions to the emergency medical provider who needs to find the work site.

NEW SECTION

WAC 296-62-09570 Effective date. The provisions and requirements of WAC 296-62-095 through 296-62-09560 are effective on June 18, 2007.